

# COAST GUARD BULLETIN



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## INFORMATION ON VOTING BY MILITARY PERSONNEL

Beginning with this issue, there will appear in the Coast Guard Bulletin, a section devoted to information regarding voting in the forthcoming elections. This section will be continued as long as the publication of this information is appropriate.

## SECRETARY OF THE NAVY KNOX DIES AT WASHINGTON

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox died at his home in Washington, D. C., on April 28, following a heart attack first suffered on April 23. He was interred with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

When informed of Secretary Knox's death, Vice Admiral R. R. Waesche, Commandant of the Coast Guard, issued the following statement:

"Secretary Knox was an outstanding leader of the many components of our wartime Navy. He had an amazing grasp of the many complex problems of the entire establishment. He had an understanding of the Coast Guard and its many problems. The Navy has lost a great leader and the Coast Guard has lost a strong friend."

Secretary Knox was born in Boston, Mass., attended public schools in Grand Rapids, and was graduated from Alma College with a degree of Bachelor of Arts. In 1898 he enrolled in the First Regiment, U. S. Volunteer Cavalry, otherwise known as the Rough Riders. With that organization, he participated in the actions of the Spanish American War. He entered the field of journalism following the war, and in 1903 became publisher of the Sault Ste. Marie Evening News. In 1912 he established the Manchester Leader and later became publisher of the Manchester Union Leader.

During World War I, he served in France as a major in the 303d Ammunition Train of the 78th Division participating in the St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne offensive. After being transferred to the Field Artillery Reserve, he was promoted on October 15, 1923, to lieutenant colonel, Officers Reserve Staff Corps, and in July 1937, to the rank of colonel. Colonel Knox's career in journalism included successively the office of general manager of the Hearst newspapers, publisher of the Hearst Boston newspapers, and since 1931, publisher of the Chicago Daily News.

In July 1940, Colonel Knox took the oath of office as Secretary of the Navy. Throughout his entire career in public life, in journalism, in the armed services, and as Secretary of the Navy he devoted himself to the best interests of his country and of the Naval Service.

## LARGE COAST GUARD FLEET BREAKS ICE TO OPEN GREAT LAKES

Despite the fact that ice was not as extensive as in recent years, the Coast Guard's efforts in breaking ice in a number of principal channels on the Great Lakes this spring resulted in a very prompt resumption of connecting traffic in those waters.

<sup>1</sup> Published with the approval of the Director of the Budget.

Ice-breaking operations got under way in the area between Detroit and Marblehead on March 17, and shortly thereafter at Escanaba Harbor, the Straits of Mackinac, Green Bay, and the St. Marys River and Whitefish Bay. Operations this year were carried out by the chartered car ferry *Ste. Marie*, 4 chartered tugs, 11 Coast Guard cutters of the 180-foot tender class, and 2 Coast Guard amphibian planes.

On March 28 a steamer was assisted through the Grays Reef Passage with the first west-bound cargo of the season. On April 8 the first steamer was able to get through Whitefish Bay, bound to Fort William for grain. The first down-bound cargoes of coal and ore passed through the Soo locks on April 11, thus inaugurating down-bound traffic through the Soo 13 days earlier than last season.

The Coast Guard Air Patrol Detachment arrived at Cleveland on March 20, and proceeded to Traverse City, where the detachment was temporarily stationed for the purpose of making aerial ice surveys of the critical areas. These planes were employed until April 27, after which they were released for return to their permanent stations.

A résumé of the ice-breaking operations, broken down as to harbors and principal bodies of water, are set forth below.

Escanaba Harbor was opened on March 22, and was followed by the opening of Port Inland Harbor on March 24. On March 28 a steamer with the first west-bound cargo of the season was assisted through the Grays Reef Passage. A second steamer followed on March 29 going via Lansing Shoal. Conditions in the Straits were such on March 31 that ice-breaking activities were discontinued. Extreme cold weather again set in, however, and ice-breaking activities had to be resumed on April 3. The situation was relieved on April 7, and steamers were able to proceed once again with only occasional assistance by ice-breaking units. On April 20 the last ice-breaking cutter departed the area since no further assistance to vessels in the Straits was necessary.

Ice breaking in Escanaba Harbor began on March 20, and was satisfactorily completed by March 23. The first ore vessel arrived at Escanaba on April 4, on the same date as the first arrivals in that port in 1943. This vessel departed with the first ore cargo the following day. A Coast Guard cutter continued to render assistance until April 21. After April 7 no further as-

sistance was necessary in the lower Green Bay area.

Preliminary ice breaking to open Port Inland was begun on March 23. The season's first cargo vessel entered the harbor on March 28. It was necessary to keep a chartered tug at this port to assist vessels until April 3.

Ice-breaking operations in Duluth-Superior Harbor were begun on March 21. Service cutters did effective work in breaking ice and preparing the docks to receive ore vessels, the first of which arrived at Duluth Harbor on April 9.

On April 9 a cutter departed Duluth for Ashland Harbor to break open the channels to that city and around the ore docks. This cutter assisted a steamer through the ice fields, and this vessel, the first arrival, succeeded in reaching the ore docks on April 11. The cutter remained at Ashland until April 20.

On April 13 two cutters departed Duluth for Whitefish Bay, proceeded through Keweenaw Waterway, breaking the ice in these channels and opening them for traffic. The cutters reached Whitefish Bay on April 15.

A strong northeast wind, on March 30, carried the ice lakeward from the approaches of Buffalo Harbor. A change of wind brought it back the next day, but the movement of the ice had broken it up so that four vessels were able to leave Buffalo Harbor on March 31, and had little difficulty in getting through the ice. Thereafter, ice caused very little hindrance to vessels. This situation was in marked contrast to the conditions in the spring of 1943, when vessels had great difficulty in the ice fields in the vicinity of Buffalo and vessels were unable to get through until May 8, 1943.

The first cargo of coal arrived at Detroit on March 28. On March 31, the first up-bound vessels of the season passed through the Soo locks. By April 9, a total of 40 vessels had cleared Whitefish Point up-bound. The first down-bound cargoes passed through the Soo locks on April 11. The car ferry *Ste. Marie* was released from Coast Guard charter on April 20. For several days thereafter, necessary assistance to vessels was rendered by Coast Guard cutters.

#### **VOLUNTEER PORT SECURITY REGIMENTS PLANNED FOR SEATTLE AND PORTLAND**

Steps are being taken to form Volunteer Port Security Forces in both Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Oreg., as a means of activating temporary reserv-

ists in this area. Capt. C. H. Jones, national director of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Capt. A. C. Marts, director of the Volunteer Port Security Forces and the Temporary Reserves, visited the Thirteenth Naval District late in April, for a conference with Capt. F. A. Zeussler, district Coast Guard officer, on the details of the plan.

The new Seattle regiment will have an authorized strength of 2,000 men, while 1,000 men are being authorized for Portland. In addition to these Volunteer Port Security regiments, members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in other ports of the district will be organized as Temporary Reservists for various port security duties.

## TWO CRUISING CUTTERS AND A TENDER CLASS CUTTER LAUNCHED

Three new vessels will soon join the Coast Guard fleet as the result of launchings which recently took place at Curtis Bay, Md., Duluth, Minn., and San Pedro, Calif.

Two cruising cutters of the 255-foot *Owasco* Class, the *Pontchartrain* and the *Chataqua*, were launched, the former at the Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, Md., and the latter at the yard of the Western Pipe & Steel Co., San Pedro, Calif. The third vessel was the 180-foot tender class cutter *Woodrush* which was launched at the yard of the Zenith Dredge Co., Duluth, Minn.

The *Pontchartrain* was launched at the Coast Guard yard on April 29, with Mrs. Benjamin C. Thorn, wife of Captain Thorn, the industrial manager of the yard, acting as sponsor. The *Chataqua*, launched on May 14, was sponsored by Mrs. William F. Towle, wife of Captain Towle, the district Coast Guard officer of the Eleventh Naval District. Mrs. Halert C. Shephard, wife of Captain Shephard, Chief of the Merchant Marine Section at Coast Guard Headquarters, acted as sponsor for the *Woodrush* which was launched on April 28.

The *Pontchartrain* is the second vessel of the *Owasco* Class to be launched at the Coast Guard yard, a sister ship, the *Mendota*, having slid down the ways there on February 29. The *Chataqua*, the first vessel of the *Owasco* Class to be launched by the Western Pipe & Steel Co., is 1 of 11 vessels of this class under contract to be built by that company.

The vessels of the *Owasco* Class have been designed to replace the ten 250-foot Lakes Class cutters which were transferred to the British under the terms of

the lend-lease agreement. They have a length over-all of 255 feet, a beam of 43 feet, a draft of 15 feet, and a displacement of approximately 2,000 tons. The vessels will be equipped with turbo-electric propulsion, 4,000 horsepower being available in each to turn a single screw.

The *Woodrush* is the last of thirty-eight 180-foot tender class cutters to be launched at Duluth, Minn. The keel for the first vessel of this type, the *Cactus*, was laid early in 1941, following the award of a contract to the Marine Iron & Shipbuilding Co. of Duluth. Additional contracts were subsequently awarded to that company and to the Zenith Dredge Co., for more vessels of this type. Of the total of 38 vessels launched at these yards, 21 were built by the Marine Iron & Shipbuilding Co. and the remaining 17 by the Zenith Dredge Co.

## UNUSUAL CASE OF ICE DAMAGE TO LAKES LIGHT STATION REPORTED BY KEEPER

Ice conditions on the Great Lakes each year cause considerable damage to Coast Guard installations. An unusual case of this sort was the ice damage recently reported by the keeper of the Poe Reef Light Station. The keepers discovered the damage when they arrived to place the station in commission for the season on April 1. Following is the letter from Clarence R. Land, the head keeper, to the district Coast Guard officer, describing the damage to the station.

"It is believed the damage to Poe Reef Light Station was done during the storm which occurred several days before the station was opened for the season.

"The damage was caused by the ice being washed and thrown up onto the pier and up against the tower. This ice was carried up 60 feet above the water level. The pier was covered with ice cakes 3 feet deep and ranging in size from 3 to 4 feet in diameter and as much as 18 inches thick.

"The railing on the east side of the pier was broken and twisted and bent out of shape beyond repair. The boat was lifted up and set cross way of the pier, and all the blocking and ropes, etc., were broken. The cabin of the boat was covered with large ice cakes.

"One of the steel window shutters on the east side of the tower was crushed in. There were 13 plate glass windows broken in the kitchen on the east side. The kitchen was full of ice cakes and glass, which had to be removed with scoop shovels. In the radio-telephone room which is 50 feet above the water, there were 12 plate glass windows broken and the steel sash was twisted and bent and broken and crushed into the room. There were also ice cakes, etc., in this room.

"There were also ice cakes up on the watchroom deck, which is 80 feet above the water level. The outrigger used for the radiobeacon antenna had the cable guy wires broken."

**WASHINGTON (D. C.) BATTALION  
REVIEWED BY COMMANDANT**

Vice Admiral R. R. Waesche, Commandant of the Coast Guard, reviewed the combined forces serving under the Captain of the Port of Washington, D. C., on May 16. These forces consist of Regulars, Regular Reservists, and Temporary Reservists, the latter organized as the Washington (D. C.) Battalion of the Volunteer Port Security Force. This was the first occasion on which Temporary Reservists and Regulars were reviewed together.

In the Commandant's party, at this inspection, was Capt. N. B. Hall, in charge of the Port Security Division at Headquarters; Capt. A. C. Marts, in charge of the Volunteer Port Security Forces and the Temporary Reserves; and Commander A. J. Hesford, aide to the Commandant. The Captain of the Port of Washington, D. C., is Lt. Comdr. Robert A. Newman.

**JANUARY 1 SET AS EFFECTIVE  
DATE FOR RECENT CHANGES  
IN INLAND PILOT RULES**

The recently approved changes in the pilot rules for certain inland waters will not become effective until January 1, 1945, according to an announcement just made by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. At the time these changes were approved by the Merchant Marine Council on January 27, the effective date was set as 1 April 1944 but because of a scarcity of available equipment, particularly side lights, a change in the effective date became necessary.

The changes in the pilot rules govern the lights to be carried on tows of barges, canal boats, and scows, on the inland waters of the United States. They affect section 312.16 of the "Pilot Rules for Certain Inland Waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and of the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico." This section does not apply to the Hudson River and adjacent waters and Lake Champlain.

The new rule clarifies the requirements as to the number of lights to be carried on the stern of a single towed vessel. Where there was some ambiguity in the old rules, the new rule makes it clear that such a vessel must carry two white lights on her stern as in the case of the last towed vessel in a tandem tow. The observance of the rule insures that every tow operating thereunder will show from the after end two white lights in horizontal line, regard-

less of the number of vessels in the tow or their grouping, except in the case of vessels placed alongside of or ahead of the towboat.

The provision that an appropriate side light must be placed on the outer side of a barge or canal boat towed alongside the tug if such vessel were high enough to obscure the side light of the tugboat, has now been extended to apply to scows towed alongside.

The other changes in the rule are for the purpose of placing barges, canal boats, and scows all in one category if the tow is being propelled by pushing. Where formerly a scow being pushed was required to carry a white light on the bow and stern, under the present rule such a scow carries only red and green side lights as does a barge.

No change is made in the lights required for scows being towed astern.

**COMMANDANT TO HEAD SOCIETY  
OF AMERICAN MILITARY  
ENGINEERS**

Vice Admiral Russell R. Waesche, Commandant of the Coast Guard, was recently elected president of The Society of American Military Engineers, a national organization dedicated to the national defense. Gen. W. H. Rose, special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, was elected vice president.

The Society of American Military Engineers had its inception in the experiences of the engineering profession in World War I. It is composed of engineers and others who believe that the lessons of the past should be preserved and studied as a guide to the future, and who deem it their duty to assist the Nation in the work of preparedness, and to save it, so far as they can, from the spirit of indifference and unreadiness into which this country has so quickly lapsed after every war.

**COMMANDANT REVIEWS 5,000  
TEMPORARY RESERVISTS  
AT BOSTON**

On the second anniversary of the enrollment and utilization of Temporary Reserves of the Coast Guard, Vice Admiral R. R. Waesche, Commandant of the Coast Guard, reviewed 5,000 members of the Temporary Reserve and the Auxiliary of the First Naval District in Boston, on Sunday, May 7th. Included in the Commandant's party were Rear Admiral L. T. Chalker, Assistant Commandant; Rear Admiral C. A. Park, Chief Operations Officer; Captain C. H.

Jones, National Director of the Coast Guard Auxiliary; Captain A. C. Marts, Director of the Volunteer Port Security Forces; Captain D. C. Stratton, Director of the Coast Guard Women's Reserve; Commodore W. N. Derby, District Coast Guard Officer; Gov. Leverett Saltonstall, of Massachusetts, and Mayor Maurice J. Tobin, of Boston.

The 5,000 Temporary Reservists and Auxiliaries, including 200 women Temporary Reservists, constituted the largest number of Temporary Reservists ever assembled. The Commandant in his remarks compared the Temporary Reservists to the Minute Men of colonial days.

### LT. ALVIN L. LOOSE

Lt. Alvin L. Loose, U. S. C. G. R., and a former civilian employee at Coast Guard Headquarters, was drowned in Pacific waters recently.

Lieutenant Loose was commissioned on March 9, 1940, and attended the officers' indoctrination school at St. Augustine, Fla. In February 1944, he was assigned to duty on a Coast Guard manned transport operating in the Pacific area. His work at Headquarters as a civilian had to do with the appointments of cadets to the Coast Guard Academy. He was born at Bellevue, Ohio, May 15, 1910.

### RECENT CITATIONS OF OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE U. S. COAST GUARD

Among the many awards made to Coast Guardsmen during the past month for outstanding services in military operations were the following:

Lt. (j. g.) Roger H. Banner was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services while attached to a transport during the amphibious invasion of Italy. The citation accompanying the award read:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services while attached to the U. S. S. *Samuel Chase* during the amphibious invasion of Italy on 9 September 1943.

"As officer in charge of a support boat, Lieutenant (junior grade) Banner exercised great skill and courage in escorting 59 amphibious trucks from the transport anchorage to the assigned beaches during darkness to discharge urgently needed artillery and equipment for the assaulting forces. He continued to navigate his support boat by the stars in traversing this distance of 12 miles

between the beaches and offshore anchorage through enemy mine fields and concentrated shell and mortar fire from shore defenses to expeditiously complete unloading operations. His excellent judgment and determination were directly accountable for the rapid discharge of assault cargo without casualty which contributed materially to the success of the invasion.

"The extraordinary ability, resourcefulness, and outstanding devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant (junior grade) Banner reflected great credit upon himself and the Naval Service."

Lt. (j. g.) Wilson K. Long was awarded the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while attached to a landing craft during the amphibious invasion at Anzio, Italy. The citation accompanying the award read:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on January 26, 1944, while attached to the U. S. S. *LST 16*, during the amphibious invasion at Anzio, Italy. During a full gale with extremely heavy seas Lieutenant (junior grade) Long volunteered to take one of the ship's landing boats to the side of a burning H. M. S. *LST* in an effort to rescue personnel trapped below decks of the blazing ship. With utmost determination he directed the operation of his craft and successfully brought the landing boat through a heavily mined area to the side of the *LST*. Despite the fact that the burning ship was pitching and rolling in a dangerous manner and ammunition was exploding he effected the rescue of a soldier, trapped in a lower compartment of the ship without means of escape, by removing him through a hole in the side of the ship, and bringing him safely to the U. S. S. *LST 16*.

"The exceptional courage, prompt and decisive action, and determination displayed by Lieutenant (junior grade) Long, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

Seaman, First Class, Walter L. Palmer, was awarded the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while attached to a landing craft during the amphibious invasion at Anzio, Italy. The citation accompanying the award read:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on January 26, 1944, while attached to the U. S. S. *LST 16* during the amphibious invasion at Anzio, Italy. During a full gale with extreme heavy seas, Walter L. Palmer volunteered as a member of a boat crew that went to the rescue of personnel trapped



below decks of a blazing H. M. S. *LST*. His expert seamanship brought the craft through a heavily mined area and despite the fact that the H. M. S. *LST* was pitching and rolling in a dangerous manner and ammunition was constantly exploding, he succeeded in bring his craft alongside and effecting the rescue of a soldier trapped in a lower compartment of the ship without means of escape, by removing him through a hole in the side of the ship and bringing him safely to the U. S. S. *LST 16*.

"The exceptional courage, prompt and decisive action, and outstanding devotion to duty displayed by Walter L. Palmer were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

Seaman, First Class, Milton O. West, Jr., was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroic and courageous conduct during rescue operations of survivors of a foundered vessel. The citation accompanying the award read:

"For heroic and courageous conduct during rescue operations of survivors of the S. S. *El Coston* early in 1944.

"While his ship was engaged in picking up survivors of the foundered S. S. *El Coston*, Milton O. West, Jr., volunteered to go over the side in order to swim to the exhausted survivors, and to attach a life line to them so that they could be hauled to safety. In spite of a rough, debris-filled sea, West made a total of four trips from his ship to helpless survivors, on each occasion rescuing one survivor. In two instances where conditions prevented the successful passing of a line to the man in the water, West brought him alongside the rescuing ship, grasped him around the waist with his legs, and, retaining his grip on

the spent survivor, was hauled on board the rescue vessel. As a result of West's initiative and his prompt and courageous acts, performed at risk to his own life, four men who otherwise would have drowned, were saved."

Lt. Comdr. Ira H. McMullan was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement as pilot of an amphibious plane during the rescue of two members of a lost aircraft. The citation accompanying the award read:

"For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of an amphibious plane attached to the Air Station, Miami, Fla., during the rescue of two members of a lost aircraft off Fowey Rocks Light on November 19, 1943. When it was learned that two men had parachuted from a plane and landed in the water 8 miles from shore, Lieutenant McMullan took off and succeeded in locating one of the men immediately. Due to the strong wind and heavy sea, which made it extremely hazardous to turn cross wind, Lieutenant McMullan landed and a member of his crew swam a line to the survivor who was unable to make his way unaided. After both men were pulled aboard, he taxied about a half mile to windward and rescued the pilot of the lost plane. As the high wind and rough sea made it impossible to taxi or sail to sheltered water for take-off, and as no surface craft were available for towing, he skillfully brought his plane off the water and landed safely at his station. By his expert airmanship, good judgment, and courageous devotion to duty, he assisted in saving the lives of his comrades who otherwise might have perished."

## INFORMATION ON VOTING BY MILITARY PERSONNEL

Reprinted from the June 1944 issue of the Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin

Public Law 277—78th Congress (the Servicemen's Absent Voting Law), section 206 (b), provides: "The Secretaries of War and Navy and other appropriate authorities shall, so far as practicable and compatible with military operations, take all reasonable measures to facilitate transmission, delivery, and return of post cards, ballots, envelopes, and instructions for voting procedures."

In accordance with this policy as laid down by the Congress, the Secretary of the Navy, on 10 April, issued the following directive (ALNAV 44-76) to the commanding officers of all ships and stations: "Instruct Navy postal personnel that all letters and postcards pertaining to Federal or State war ballots and identifiable as such in any manner, shall be given air mail transportation and most expeditious handling possible. Law contemplates that such matter will be carried as air mail, free of postage."

On 6 May the Acting Secretary of the Navy issued further and more detailed instructions for the handling of war ballot mail by Navy post office service.

In order to identify such war ballot mail the War Ballot Commission has recommended to the several States that uniform, distinctive markings be printed in red on all outgoing and returning war ballot material. Gratifying assurances have been received from the several States expressing their willingness to cooperate in every way possible.

The Naval Air Transport Service has made plans to give war ballot material returning from overseas the highest air priority.

The Secretary of War by letter addressed to the Postmaster General, dated 11 May, has given adequate priority to the special pouches designed for the transportation of balloting material over domestic commercial air line routes. In the event that the transportation of war ballots over domestic commercial air lines is in excess of the volume which can be accommodated by such air lines, both the Naval Air Transport Service and the Army Transport Command have agreed to carry such excess.

In such a manner both the Army, Navy, and War Shipping Administration are prepared to keep the pledge

given by the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Administrator of the War Shipping Administration in their joint statement dated 3 April, as follows: "We will work with State authorities to facilitate and expedite the transmission and return of all war balloting material, to the end that every soldier, sailor, and member of the merchant marine and other civilian covered by the act who desires to vote shall have the opportunity to do so."

Twenty-four States will hold their primaries between the dates of 11 June and 15 August inclusive. The following has been prepared to stress certain procedures common to all and to point out provisions of State law of particular States. The following five points are emphasized:

1. The applicant for a primary ballot must state his party affiliation.
2. The applicant should print or type his name, service number, and address under his signature on the post card application.
3. The serviceman, upon receiving his absentee ballot, should execute it in accordance with instructions accompanying it and return it at once.
4. No commissioned, warrant, non-commissioned, or petty officer shall attempt to influence any member of the armed forces to vote or not to vote for any particular candidate.
5. Any question as to the eligibility of a serviceman to obtain a complete State ballot should be immediately referred to the Secretary of State of the State of his residence.

ARIZONA holds its primaries on 18 July.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Registration is required by the State law affecting these primaries. However, such registration may be effected by the spouse, parent, next of kin, or any informed elector by completing a special form provided by each county recorder.

ARKANSAS holds its first primaries on 25 July and its run-off primary on 6 August.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer

will be honored. Such post card application will be treated as an application for both primaries if the serviceman applicant so indicates thereon. Previous registration is not required.

GEORGIA holds its Democratic State-wide primary on 4 July.

Application for an absent voter ballot should be made to the county registrar of the home county of the applicant. Such application may be made by any member of the naval service, his relative, or friend. In such application there must be stated the name and address of the member of the naval service. Registration is required by the laws of Georgia affecting this primary. Applications for registration must be made by the member of the naval service, his relative or friend on a form to be provided by the tax collector or tax commissioner of the county of the residence of the member of the naval service, indicating thereon the date of his birth. All citizens of Georgia become eligible to qualify as voters upon attaining their 18th birthday.

IDAHO holds its primaries on 13 June.

No special form of application is required. The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Registration is required by the State law affecting these primaries. If an applicant has failed to vote in the last general election, registration is canceled. An absent serviceman may register by applying in writing under oath to the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of the county of his residence for a form of elector's oath which, if executed and returned before Saturday, 10 June, will constitute registration.

KANSAS holds its primaries on 1 August.

No special form of application is required. The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Registration is not required.

KENTUCKY holds its primaries on 5 August.

Pending the set-up of voting procedure, information relative to absent servicemen voting is unavailable.

MAINE holds its primaries on 19 June.

Upon receipt of the post card application, which is available from the commanding officer, the Secretary of State will forward to the serviceman the form of application for absentee ballot prescribed by statute. The serviceman should fill out and forward this application at once to the election officials of the community of his residence. Registration is required by the State

law affecting these primaries. It may be effected by requesting the local board of registration to place the name of the applicant on the voting list. This request may also be made by any other person.

MASSACHUSETTS holds its primaries on 11 July.

Because the State laws make no provision for absentee servicemen voting in these primaries, the serviceman must vote in person if he desires to exercise his franchise.

MICHIGAN holds its primaries on 11 July.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Registration is required. However, it may be effected by completing the oath printed on the absentee ballot envelope.

MINNESOTA holds its primaries on 10 July.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Application may also be made in behalf of the absent serviceman by any member of his immediate family more than 18 years of age. Registration is effected by making an application for the State absentee ballot.

MISSISSIPPI holds its first primary on 4 July, and its run-off primary on 29 August.

Registration is required by the State law. Those in the armed services may register by affidavit before 7 July if the form for such affidavit is requested by a member of the naval service or any person interested in such member. State absentee ballots may be requested by any member of the naval service or any one interested in such member. The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Such request should be sent to the Circuit Clerk of the home county of the absentee voter or the secretary of the party executive committee of the county of the absent voter. Only one request for absentee ballot is necessary for all primaries and elections held in the year in which the request is made. Payment of a poll tax is not required of those in the military service as a prerequisite to vote.

MISSOURI holds its primaries on 1 August.

No special form of application is required. The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Registration is not required.

MONTANA holds its primaries on 13 July.

The post card application, which is available from the commanding officer,



will be honored. Registration is required by the State laws of Montana affecting these primaries. Registration may be effected by applying therefor to the County Clerk and Recorder of the County of residence of the serviceman applicant.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE** holds its primaries on 11 July.

Because the State laws make no provision for absentee servicemen voting in these primaries, the serviceman must vote in person if he desires to exercise his franchise.

**NEW YORK** holds its primaries on 1 August.

Because the State laws make no provision for absentee servicemen voting in these primaries, the serviceman must vote in person if he desires to exercise his franchise.

**NORTH DAKOTA** holds its primaries on 27 June.

The following is an excerpt from a memorandum from the Secretary of State of North Dakota: "The absent voter's laws of the State of North Dakota pertaining to voting of persons in military service require that county auditors shall send ballots to every qualified absent voter in military service without application as quickly as the ballots are available. This means that if a county auditor has the address of such absent voter, nothing further is necessary. Therefore, the only requirement is that the absentee send the county auditor his address (or if he wishes, he may send it to the office of the Secretary of State), the usual Government post card, some other post card, or a letter giving his voting residence and his present address and a ballot will be sent him." Previous registration is not required.

**OKLAHOMA** holds its primaries on 11 July.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Previous registration is not required.

**TENNESSEE** holds its primaries on 3 August.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer, will be honored. Such post card application will be treated as an application for registration of the serviceman applicant, if such applicant is not registered.

**TEXAS** holds its first primary on 22 July and its run-off primaries on 26 August. The post card application, which is available from the commanding officer, will be honored. If the serviceman applicant states on his post card application that he desires it treated

as an application for both the first and the run-off primaries, it will be treated as a valid application for both primaries. The previous payment of a poll tax is required by the State laws affecting these primaries. Therefore, the post card application must be accompanied by either a poll tax receipt or an affidavit of its loss. Previous registration is not required.

**UTAH** holds its first primaries on 11 July and its run-off primaries on 15 August.

The post card application, which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. One such post card application will be treated as an application for both the first and the run-off primaries.

**VERMONT** holds its primaries on 8 August.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. Registration is required by the State laws affecting these primaries. However, it is effected by completing the oath on the State absentee ballot envelope.

**VIRGINIA** holds its primaries on 1 August.

The post card application, which is available from the commanding officer, will be honored. The usual requirement of previous registration and payment of poll taxes as a condition precedent to the exercise of the voting privilege is waived.

**WASHINGTON** holds its primaries on 11 July.

The post card application which is available from the commanding officer will be honored. The executed ballot must be marked and mailed on or before 11 July and received back in Washington by 5 August. While registration is required by the State laws affecting these primaries, it may be effected by completing the affidavit printed on the State absentee ballot envelope.

**WYOMING** holds its primaries on 18 July.

Application for a State absentee ballot must be made on a special application form furnished by the Secretary of State, Cheyenne, Wyo., or by the appropriate local election officials. Such request may be made by forwarding the post card application which is available from the commanding officer and by stating thereon that the serviceman applicant desires it to be treated as a request for an application for a State absentee ballot. While registration is required by the State laws affecting these primaries, it may be effected by completing the affidavit printed on the State absentee ballot envelope.

IF YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THE STATES LISTED, THIS INFORMATION ON VOTING IS OF INTEREST TO YOU				
State	Primary	Earliest date State will receive soldiers' applications for regular State absentee ballots covering all offices to be voted on	Latest date application for ballot will be received	Date on or before which executed ballot must be received back in order to be counted.
Arizona-----	18 July-----	At any time-----	15 July-----	18 July.
Arkansas-----	{25 July-----	do-----	No time limit-----	25 July.
Georgia-----	{8 August-----	do-----	do-----	8 August.
Idaho-----	4 July-----	do-----	do-----	4 July.
Kansas-----	13 June-----	do-----	do-----	13 June.
Kentucky-----	1 August-----	do-----	do-----	31 July.
Maine-----	5 August-----	Pending the set-up of voting procedures, information is unavailable.	do-----	19 June.
Massachusetts-----	19 June-----	At any time-----	No time limit-----	19 June.
Michigan-----	11 July-----	No provision for absentee serviceman voting in primary.	No time limit-----	11 July.
Minnesota-----	11 July-----	At any time-----	No time limit-----	10 July.
Mississippi-----	10 July-----	do-----	do-----	4 July.
Missouri-----	{4 July-----	do-----	do-----	29 August.
Montana-----	{29 August-----	do-----	do-----	2 August.
New Hampshire-----	1 August-----	do-----	do-----	18 July.
New York-----	11 July-----	No provision for absentee serviceman voting in primary.	No time limit-----	11 July.
North Dakota-----	1 August-----	No provision for absentee serviceman voting in primary.	No time limit-----	27 June.
Oklahoma-----	27 June-----	No provision for absentee serviceman voting in primary.	No time limit-----	11 July.
Tennessee-----	11 July-----	At any time-----	6 July-----	3 August.
-----	3 August-----	At any time before 1 June if outside U. S.	1 June (if overseas), 10 July (if inside U. S.)	19 July.
Texas-----	{22 July-----	At any time-----	19 July-----	23 August.
-----	{26 August-----	do-----	23 August-----	11 July.
Utah-----	{11 July-----	do-----	6 July-----	15 August.
-----	{15 August-----	do-----	10 July-----	8 August.
Vermont-----	8 August-----	do-----	4 August-----	24 July.
Virginia-----	1 August-----	do-----	No time limit-----	Must be marked and mailed on or before 11 July and received by 5 Aug.
Washington-----	11 July-----	do-----	do-----	18 July.
Wyoming-----	18 July-----	1 July-----	do-----	

SecNav  
WBO/EN1:H  
23 May, 1944

## CIRCULAR LETTER

To: All Ships and Stations.

Subj: Instructions for distributing the postcard provided for by the Servicemen's Voting Law (PL 277—78th Congress).

Refs: (a) Public Law 277—78th Congress, effective 31 March, 1944. (See N. D. Bul. 44-419.)

(b) SecNav directive to All Ships and Stations, dated 6 May, 1944, File Op-20-M-1/rmh Serial 200210.

The attention of all commanding officers is directed to the following instructions:

1. The new Servicemen's Voting Law (ref. (a)) provides that "there shall be delivered" to each "eligible" person a postcard (USWBC Form No. 1) not later than 15 August outside the United States and not later than 15 September inside the United States.

## WHO IS AN ELIGIBLE PERSON

2. An eligible person is any citizen who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, the Merchant Marine, or of the American Red Cross, the Society of Friends, the Women's Auxiliary Service Pilots, or the United Service Organizations, if attached to and serving with the armed forces, and who will be 21 years old on 7 November, 1944 (18 for Georgia citizens).

3. Inasmuch as the State is the sole judge as to eligibility, all doubts should be resolved in favor of delivering the postcards.

## WHEN TO DISTRIBUTE

4. *In general.*—Postcards should be distributed, if practicable, at muster or when the entire command (including attached civilians) is present. A roster, in duplicate (including attached civilians), should be employed in order to provide a record of the distribution. An appropriate notation should be made opposite the name of each eligible person to whom a card is delivered. A distinguishing notation should also be made opposite the name of each ineligible person. Those not present at the time and place of distribution, either because of change of station, leave, sickness, confinement for disciplinary reasons, or other causes, should be provided with postcards at the earliest opportunity and an entry should be made on the roster.

5. *Outside the United States.*—Postcards should be distributed outside the United States at such time prior to 15 August as will most likely insure their receipt in the several States on or about 20 August. Factors, such as pending military operations within the knowledge of the appropriate commanding officer, will govern in the determination of that time. Premature delivery is to be avoided as it will increase the possibility of a change in the service address of the individual occurring between the mailing of the postcard and the receipt of the State ballot.

6. *Inside the United States.*—Postcards should be distributed inside the United States on or about 20 August.

## RESERVE SUPPLIES

7. If the number of postcards enclosed herewith is inadequate, requests for the necessary additional number should be forwarded at once to any, but preferably your own, command voting supervisor.

## REPORTS

8. In order that this office may make the reports required under the law (ref. (a)), it is necessary for all officers to keep written record of all matters under their cognizance pertaining to war balloting. As respects the distribution of postcards, the voting or other officer who has direct charge of the actual distribution should make written report to his command voting supervisor, such report to identify fully the particular organization reporting, the number of persons in the organization and of attached civilians, the name and rank of the officer making distribution, the number of postcards distributed, the number of ineligible persons, the date or dates of the distribution, and any other pertinent information.

## ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF ARMED GUARDS

9. In accordance with the request to the Administrator, War Shipping Administration, made pursuant to provisions of the law (ref. (a)), postcards for members of the Merchant Marine on board ships having an Armed Guard will be addressed to the Officer-in-Charge of such Armed Guard, and will be distributed by this officer to all eligible persons including naval and Merchant Marine personnel and attached civilians. The number of postcards so addressed is deemed adequate for all eligible persons. In the event the supply furnished herewith is inadequate, see paragraph 7 above.

10. Since the laws of some States do not recognize oaths administered by Merchant Marine officers, it is desirable that all postcards be signed by the Officer-in-Charge of such Armed Guard as the witnessing officer.

11. It is important that the cards contain the complete naval or Merchant Marine addresses of the applicant including the name of his ship. It is permissible for an applicant to place such complete address on the card *provided* all such cards are delivered to the Officer-in-Charge of such Armed Guard who is directed to deposit same at a fleet post office, an Army post office or a United States post office, wherever possible. When such mail is deposited with overseas Navy or State Department activities not having Army or Navy post offices, it shall be backstamped or endorsed to show date received and forwarded by the most expeditious means. War ballot mail shall not be deposited in the International Mail Service.

12. The Officer-in-Charge of an Armed Guard will make the written report required in paragraph 8 covering all naval and Merchant Marine personnel and attached civilians assigned to his ship. This report will be made to the command voting supervisor for the particular Armed Guard center to which the reporting officer is attached.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

13. Responsibility for carrying out these instructions rests with commanding officers at all echelons, and particularly with the immediate commanding officer of a unit. Designation of a voting officer within a unit does not relieve the unit commanding officer or commanding officers of higher echelons of any portion of their responsibility.

RALPH A. BARD.

## TO ALL SHIPS AND STATIONS

WBC\*EN1: H  
FROM: SECNAV  
23 MAY 1944

1. FOR PURPOSE ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS PUBLIC 277—78TH CONGRESS (SERVICEMENS VOTING LAW) AND OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING VOTING BY SERVICEMEN COMMA THE WORDS "COMMANDING OFFICER" AND "UNIT" ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS X

(a) "COMMANDING OFFICER" IS THE OFFICER OF THE LOWEST ECHELON WHO HAS AUTHORITY CONVEENE SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL FOR PERSONNEL ATTACHED SUCH ECHELON COMMA PURSUANT ARTICLES GOVERNMENT OF NAVY COMMA INCLUDING SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS BY SECNAV X

(b) "UNIT" IS THAT COMMAND TO WHICH SUCH PERSONNEL IS ATTACHED X

(c) ABOVE DEFINITIONS INCLUDE AN OFFICER IN CHARGE OF AN ARMED GUARD X

2. DUTY OF AFFORDING MEMBERS NAVY COMMA MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD AND CERTAIN CIVILIANS ATTACHED THERETO (SEE ND BUL 44-419) COMMA OPPORTUNITY APPLY FOR BALLOT AND VOTE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMANDS AT ALL ECHELONS COMMA PARTICULARLY OF COMMANDING OFFICER EACH UNIT HEREINBEFORE DEFINED X THIS DUTY NOT ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE TASK X COMMANDERS ALL ECHELONS WILL BE HELD TO STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION THESE MATTERS X ULTIMATE REPORT MUST BE MADE TO CONGRESS X

3. EACH COMMANDING OFFICER OF A UNIT COMMA AS HEREINBEFORE DEFINED COMMA IS DIRECTED DESIGNATE IMMEDIATELY A COMMISSIONED OFFICER TO ACT AS "VOTING OFFICER" TO REPRESENT HIM IN DISCHARGE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES CONNECTION WITH ADMINISTRATION OF SERVICEMEN VOTING X SUCH DESIGNATION DOES NOT RELIEVE COMMANDING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY PLACED ON HIM BY CONGRESS X ANTICIPATED TOUR DUTY SUCH DESIGNATED OFFICER SHOULD NOT TERMINATE PRIOR ONE JANUARY 1945 X EACH "VOTING OFFICER" IS DIRECTED TO BECOME THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH PUBLIC 277 (SEE ND BUL 44-419) ALL DISPATCHES AND OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL CONCERNING SERVICEMENS VOTING HERETOFORE AND HEREAFTER PUBLISHED X MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS IS IN PREPARATION X

3. BY SEPARATE DISPATCH EACH AREA AND FLEET COMMAND HAS BEEN DIRECTED DESIGNATE A "COMMAND VOTING SUPERVISOR" SUPERVISE ACTIVITIES SET FORTH PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE HEREOF X



WBC: EN1: H: b

From: SECNAV

23 May, 1944

251342

CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE EXPRESSED IN NEW FEDERAL VOTING LAW PUBLIC LAW 277 REQUIRES ALL ELIGIBLE PERSONNEL BE AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY EXERCISE THEIR FRANCHISE X POLICY OF DEPT IS GIVE ASSISTANCE NAVY COMMA MARINE CORPS COMMA COAST GUARD AND CERTAIN SPECIFIED CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO AND SERVING WITH ARMED FORCES IN EXERCISE THEIR VOTING RIGHTS SO LONG AS SUCH ASSISTANCE DOES NOT IMPEDE USUAL MILITARY FUNCTIONS X EACH ADDRESSEE IS DIRECTED IMMEDIATELY DESIGNATE AS HIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AN OFFICER TO BE QUOTE COMMAND VOTING SUPERVISOR UNQUOTE X FOR GUIDANCE MAKING DESIGNATION GENERAL DUTIES WILL BE ORGANIZE ADMINISTER SUPERVISE WAR BALLOT PROGRAM AREA UNDER YOUR COMMAND PREPARE REPORTS REQUIRED OF YOU FOR ULTIMATE INCLUSION SECRETARYS REPORT FOR CONGRESS X NAVAL ADDRESSEES WILL FUNCTION FOR ALL NAVAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THEIR AREA WHETHER OR NOT UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION COMMA EXCEPT ACTIVITIES ACTION ADDRESSEES X ACTION ADDRESSEES RESPONSIBLE COORDINATING PROGRAM WITHIN RESPECTIVE COMMANDS TO INSURE COMPLIANCE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE X OFFICER DESIGNATED SHOULD BE ONE WHOSE ANTICIPATED TOUR OF DUTY YOUR COMMAND WILL NOT TERMINATE PRIOR 1 JANUARY 1945 WHOSE RANK NOT BELOW LT COMDR X LATER WILL BE NECESSARY DETACH DESIGNATED OFFICERS ALL OTHER DUTIES SO MAY DEVOTE FULL TIME INDOCTRINATION PERFORMANCE DUTIES AS QUOTE SUPERVISORS UNQUOTE X ACTION ADDRESSEES SHALL IMMEDIATELY DISPATCH TO SECNAVNAME RANK CLASSIFICATION OFFICER DESIGNATED X

